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ABSTRACT

This report focuses on ethnic enrollment percentages at major urban institutions for fall 1984 and 1986. Information is also provided for selected urban and land-grant universities in the southeast United States and for Atlanta, Georgia, area institutions. The data consist of enrollment information gathered for the Office of Civil Rights every 2 years, most recently in 1986. The major findings of the report include: (1) Georgia State University's (GSU) black student enrollment was 16.1%, and of the 26 urban universities selected for the study, 21 had lower percentages of black students, and 4 had higher percentages, (2) there were 11 Atlanta-area institutions whose percentages of black students were lower than that of GSU, and 5 had higher percentages (excluding predominantly black schools); (3) total enrollment at GSU rose from 21,366 in 1984 to 21,835 in 1986, with 15 of the selected 26 urban institutions experiencing enrollment increases in the 2-year period; and (4) ethnic enrollments in general at GSU and other urban institutions varied little over the 2-year period. It is noted that while many institutions have experienced declines in the enrollment of black students, GSU has maintained its enrollment of this minority group, but to do so in future years will be more difficult due to fewer black students participating in higher education and the availability of other competitive sources of postsecondary education. (GLR)

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Urban Universities

Report No. 89-11

Georgia State University

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Ethnic Enrollments at Major Urban Universities

Report No. 89-11

by

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Office of Institutional Research
Georgia State University

September, 1988

Abstract

This report has focused on ethnic enrollment percentages at selected urban institutions for fall 1984 and 1986. Information is also provided for selected urban and land-grant universities in the southeast and for Atlanta area institutions. The data consist of enrollment information gathered for the Office of Civil Rights every two years, most recently in 1986. The major findings of this report include:

* At Georgia State University in 1986 the enrollment of black students was at 16.1%. Of the 26 urban universities selected for study, 21 had lower percentages of black students, and 4 had higher percentages.

* In 1986 there were 11 Atlanta area institutions whose percentages of black students were lower than that of Georgia State University. Excluding the institutions that are predominantly black, 5 had higher percentages of black students.

* The total enrollment at Georgia State University rose from 21,366 in 1984 to 21,835 in 1986. Fifteen of the selected 26 urban institutions experienced enrollment increases in the two-year period.

* In general, ethnic enrollments at Georgia State University and other urban institutions varied little over the two-year period.

Ethnic Enrollments at Major Urban Universities

Since 1980 fewer blacks have been enrolling for college or university studies. Of the almost 200,000 students enrolled in Georgia institutions of higher education in 1986, over 150,000 were white, while about 34,000 (17.6%) were black. With the drop in the number of 18-year-olds and the expected decline in college enrollments, the question of ethnic participation in higher education becomes important in the management of enrollments.

Student enrollments are of vital concern to practically all institutions and have become a high priority in decision-making and planning activities. It is the purpose of this report to review minority enrollments for major urban universities throughout the United States, for selected institutions in the southeast, and for institutions in the Atlanta regional area. It is hoped that this information can be of use in decision-making and planning processes.

Plan of the Report

Figures on racial and ethnic enrollments for colleges and universities are collected every two years for the United States Office of Civil Rights. Approximately 3,300 colleges report their enrollment by minority groups. The specific racial and ethnic categories include American Indian or Alaskan native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, non-Hispanic; Hispanic; and white, non-Hispanic. All non-resident foreign students are included as one category regardless of their ethnic background. The most recent data available are for fall 1986.

Enrollment percentages by ethnic group are presented for selected urban institutions for fall 1984 and 1986. Urban universities are those self-declared to have an urban orientation or mission. Enrollment percentages by ethnic group are also given for selected urban and land-grant universities in the southeast for fall 1986. Additionally, enrollment figures for Atlanta area colleges and universities for fall 1984 and 1986 are presented.

Findings

Selected Urban Universities

The ethnic enrollment percentages for selected urban universities for fall 1984 and 1986 are given in Table 1. This information is organized by the Carnegie Commission classification system. For example, Georgia State University (GSU) is a Doctorate-Granting University I. Higher levels of classification include Research Universities I and II. Lower levels include the Comprehensive Universities and Colleges.

The total enrollment at GSU increased from 21,366 fall 1984 to 21,835 fall 1986. Four other institutions in the Doctorate-Granting University I category experienced increases in enrollment, and four had enrollment declines. Fifteen of the selected 26 urban institutions had increases in their total enrollments, while 11 experienced decreases over the same time period.

The percentage of American Indian students at GSU was .1% in both 1984 and 1986. The percentages of American Indian students at other urban universities were stable over the two-year period,

Table 1

Ethnic Enrollments at Selected Urban Universities, Fall 1984 & 1986

	Total N		American Indian %		Asian %		Black %		Hispanic %		White %		Foreign %	
Research Universities I	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86
University of Illinois, Chicago	24,067	25,330	.4	.3	9.3	10.6	10.1	9.5	7.3	7.6	68.3	67.0	4.5	5.0
University of Pittsburgh, Main	29,197	28,449	.1	.1	1.6	1.8	8.1	8.7	.5	.9	85.0	83.8	4.7	4.7
Research Universities II														
Arizona State University	40,538	42,014	1.2	1.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.1	4.6	5.0	86.5	85.3	3.7	4.1
Wayne State University	29,070	28,764	.8	1.0	3.3	3.1	21.9	21.9	1.8	1.7	69.7	69.4	2.5	2.9
State University of NY at Albany	15,938	16,112	.2	.2	1.9	2.4	4.4	4.7	2.3	2.9	87.6	85.9	3.5	3.9
State University of NY at Buffalo, Main	22,953	23,977	.5	.6	3.5	3.8	5.7	5.1	1.7	1.9	82.3	81.8	6.3	6.7
Temple University	28,772	30,615	.3	.3	2.6	3.4	15.1	13.9	1.8	2.0	78.6	77.8	1.5	2.7
Virginia Commonwealth University	19,773	19,641	.3	.4	2.0	2.4	14.6	13.6	.9	.9	81.4	81.7	.8	1.0
Doctorate-Granting Universities I														
Georgia State University	21,366	21,835	.1	.1	1.2	1.6	16.4	16.1	1.3	1.5	77.8	76.8	3.1	3.9
Ball State University	17,370	18,531	.3	.3	.5	.6	3.2	3.6	.6	.6	94.4	94.0	1.0	.9
University of Louisville	19,747	20,144	.3	.3	1.2	1.6	8.4	8.5	.6	.3	87.9	88.1	1.6	1.3
University of Akron	26,644	25,944	.4	.5	.7	.8	6.6	6.6	.3	.4	89.5	88.8	2.4	2.9
University of Toledo	21,039	21,176	.5	.5	1.1	.9	6.4	6.0	1.2	1.3	84.7	83.5	6.1	7.8
Memphis State University	21,296	20,043	.1	.1	.4	.5	18.6	17.7	.2	.3	77.8	78.3	2.9	3.1
University of Houston, Main	31,095	28,164	.4	.4	6.4	7.9	8.8	7.4	6.1	6.5	71.3	70.6	7.0	7.3
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	26,464	25,930	.6	.7	1.3	1.4	6.3	5.9	1.8	1.8	87.5	87.3	2.5	2.9
University of South Florida	27,690	29,439	.1	.1	1.1	1.6	3.5	3.6	4.6	4.8	88.5	87.4	2.2	2.4
Doctorate-Granting Universities II														
University of Alabama, Birmingham	13,517	13,538	.1	.1	1.0	1.0	17.9	16.2	.3	.2	79.6	79.6	1.1	2.8
University of New Orleans	16,356	16,083	.2	.2	2.6	2.8	16.6	16.0	4.1	4.5	74.2	74.1	2.4	2.4
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	8,153	9,267	.2	.2	5.0	6.7	11.9	11.7	1.3	1.2	80.1	78.3	1.6	1.9
University of Missouri, Kansas City	11,464	11,583	.5	.6	2.4	2.8	7.7	6.6	1.7	1.7	86.2	85.6	1.6	2.7
Rutgers, The State Univ. of NJ, Newark	9,381	9,611	.1	.3	3.7	5.4	20.4	19.0	7.7	9.0	66.3	64.4	1.8	1.9
Cleveland State University	18,032	17,951	.5	.5	.7	.8	10.8	10.6	.5	.7	86.0	85.9	1.5	1.6
Portland State University	14,390	15,640	.7	.8	6.4	5.8	2.0	2.0	1.1	1.2	86.4	86.6	3.4	3.6
University of Texas, Dallas	7,442	7,324	.4	.4	4.3	5.6	3.7	4.0	2.8	2.7	81.3	82.1	7.6	5.1
Old Dominion University	15,626	15,463	.5	.4	2.0	2.5	9.4	9.6	1.3	1.2	84.3	83.5	2.5	2.8

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education, July 23, 1986, Volume XXXII, Number 21, pp. 26-32.
The Chronicle of Higher Education, July 6, 1988, Volume XXXIV, Number 43, pp. A20-A29.

and in 1986 varied from a low of .1% at five institutions to a high of 1.0% at two institutions.

The percentage of Asian students at GSU increased from 1.2% in 1984 to 1.6% in 1986. All but four of the urban institutions experienced increases in their percentages of Asian students. The lowest percentage in 1986 was at Memphis State University (.5%), while the highest was at University of Illinois, Chicago (10.6%).

The enrollment of black students at GSU was at 16.4% in 1984 and at 16.1% in 1986. As at GSU, black enrollment at many other urban universities declined slightly over time. In 1986, 21 institutions had lower percentages of black students than did GSU, while four had higher percentages. The highest percentage of black students was at Wayne State University (21.9%), followed by Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark (19.0%), Memphis State University (17.7%), and University of Alabama, Birmingham (16.2%).

At GSU the enrollment of Hispanic students rose slightly during the two-year period, from 1.3% to 1.5%. At most institutions the percentages of Hispanic students remained the same or rose slightly over time. The lowest percentage of Hispanic students in 1986 was at University of Alabama, Birmingham (.2%), while the highest was at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark (9.0%).

The percentage of white students at GSU dropped by 1% in two years, from 77.8% in 1984 to 76.8% in 1986. Similarly, the percentage of white students changed little over time at the

other urban universities, with most of them (19) experiencing small declines. In 1986 there were 20 urban institutions with greater percentages of white students than GSU. The highest percentage of white students was at Ball State University (94.0%).

The enrollment of foreign students at GSU increased slightly over time, from 3.1% in 1984 to 3.9% in 1986. Almost all of the other urban universities experienced similar increases in their foreign student enrollments. In 1986 foreign enrollment percentages ranged from .9% at Ball State University to 7.8% at University of Toledo.

Selected Universities in the Southeast

Table 2 presents the fall 1986 ethnic enrollments of ten selected universities located in the southeast. These include five urban universities: GSU, University of Louisville, University of South Florida, Memphis State University and Virginia Commonwealth University. Information is also shown for five land-grant universities located in the same states as the urban institutions. These include University of Georgia (UGA), University of Kentucky, University of Florida, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

In terms of total enrollments the greatest numbers were at the two Florida institutions. The University of Florida had a total enrollment of 35,172, while the University of South Florida enrolled 29,439 students. GSU, with 21,835 students, ranked second in total enrollment out of the five urban universities in the southeast.

Table 2

Ethnic Enrollments at Selected Universities
in the Southeast, Fall 1986

Institution	Total N	Amer. Indian %	Asian %	Black %	Hispanic %	White %	Foreign %
Georgia State University	21,835	.1	1.6	16.1	1.5	76.8	3.9
University of Georgia	25,698	.1	.9	5.0	.6	89.5	3.9
University of Louisville	20,144	.3	1.6	8.5	.3	88.1	1.3
University of Kentucky	20,692	.3	1.0	3.1	.6	92.6	2.4
University of South Florida	29,439	.1	1.6	3.6	4.8	87.4	2.4
University of Florida	35,172	.1	2.2	5.8	4.8	82.8	4.3
Memphis State University	20,043	.1	.5	17.7	.3	78.3	3.1
University of Tennessee-Knoxville	25,842	.2	.9	4.4	.3	90.7	3.4
Virginia Commonwealth University	19,641	.4	2.4	13.6	.9	81.7	1.0
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	24,637	.1	3.5	3.6	.8	87.1	5.0

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education, July 6, 1988, Volume XXXIV, Number 43, pp. A20-A29.

The black enrollment at GSU fall 1986 was 16.1%, compared with 5.0% at UGA. Of the five urban institutions, GSU had the second highest percentage of black students. The highest percentage was found at Memphis State University (17.7%). In all states but one, black enrollment percentages were higher at the urban institution compared with the land-grant university. The exception was in Florida, where black enrollment was lower at the University of South Florida (3.6%) than at the University of Florida (5.8%).

In terms of other minorities, the enrollments at GSU differed little from those at UGA. GSU had a slightly higher percentage of Asian and Hispanic students compared with UGA. Similarly, in the four other states the percentages at urban universities tended to differ little from those at the land-grant institutions.

Atlanta Area Colleges and Universities

Enrollment percentages for ethnic groups are presented in Table 3 for 22 selected Atlanta area colleges and universities. Information is given for fall 1984 and 1986.

Total enrollments increased over the two-year period at GSU and at 12 of the other Atlanta area institutions. The largest gain was at Kennesaw State College, where total enrollment increased by over 1400. Nine of the 22 Atlanta area institutions experienced enrollment declines over time. These include Clark College, whose enrollment declined by over 600, and Atlanta Metropolitan College. The sharp decline at DeKalb College may be attributed to a change in the method of reporting Vocational-Technical students.

Table 3

Ethnic Enrollment at Atlanta Area Colleges and Universities, Fall 1984 & 1986

Institution	Total N		American Indian %		Asian %		Black %		Hispanic %		White %		Foreign %	
	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86	Fall 84	Fall 86
Agnes Scott College	539	518	.0	.2	1.1	1.7	6.3	6.2	2.0	2.9	89.2	86.5	1.3	2.5
Art Institute of Atlanta	1,051	1,055	.0	.0	1.7	1.8	28.4	28.4	1.1	1.2	68.7	68.5	.0	.0
Atlanta Christian College	149	153	.0	1.3	3.4	4.6	14.8	76.5	0.0	4.6	81.9	12.4	.0	.7
Atlanta College of Art	247	236	.0	.0	2.8	.0	12.1	4.2	2.0	.0	81.8	94.5	1.2	1.3
Atlanta Metropolitan College	1,453	1,281	.3	.2	.3	.3	88.6	88.1	.7	.3	1.5	1.9	8.5	9.3
Bauder Fashion College	610	560	.5	.5	.0	.0	23.9	23.9	1.5	1.4	73.8	73.9	.3	.2
Clark College	1,879	1,230	.0	.0	.0	.0	95.2	97.6	.0	.2	.0	.0	4.8	2.1
Clayton State College	3,358	3,283	.4	.2	.7	.9	8.1	9.1	1.1	1.2	89.4	88.1	.4	.5
Columbia Theological Seminary	483	525	.0	.0	2.9	2.7	3.9	5.5	.4	.6	88.4	89.1	4.3	2.1
DeKalb College	14,877	8,786	.4	.3	1.4	2.1	19.8	17.2	1.1	1.2	74.9	77.4	2.4	1.7
DeVry Institute of Technology	2,783	3,023	.3	.3	2.3	3.2	38.0	48.2	1.7	2.2	55.6	44.7	2.1	1.4
Emory University	8,533	8,884	.1	.1	1.5	2.0	5.3	6.1	1.7	1.6	86.2	84.4	5.2	5.7
Georgia Institute of Technology	10,958	11,494	.1	.1	3.5	4.3	5.7	6.1	2.2	2.1	81.7	80.8	6.6	6.6
Georgia State University	21,366	21,835	.1	.1	1.2	1.6	16.4	16.1	1.3	1.5	77.8	76.8	3.1	3.9
Gupton Jones College	163	205	.0	.0	.0	.0	33.7	15.6	.0	.0	66.3	82.0	.0	2.4
Kennesaw College	5,821	7,275	.2	.3	.8	.7	2.4	2.9	.9	.8	94.4	93.6	1.3	1.6
Life Chiropractic College	1,596	1,362	.1	.4	.8	.7	2.3	2.1	1.8	2.6	93.7	94.1	1.3	.0
Morehouse College	2,056	2,122	.0	.0	.0	.0	96.1	97.4	.0	.0	.0	.0	3.9	2.5
Morehouse School of Medicine	127	132	1.6	1.5	5.5	4.5	78.0	76.5	.0	4.5	13.4	12.1	1.6	.8
Morris Brown College	1,086	1,354	.0	.0	1.8	.7	98.1	91.8	.1	.2	.0	.0	.0	7.2
Oglethorpe University	1,017	960	.0	.0	1.5	.7	8.0	5.5	2.7	1.1	87.9	86.6	.0	6.0
Southern Technical Institute	3,610	3,762	.2	.1	.7	1.4	8.9	11.1	.6	.7	87.0	85.0	2.5	1.6

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education, July 23, 1986, Volume XXXII, Number 21, pp. 26-32.
The Chronicle of Higher Education, July 6, 1988, Volume XXXIV, Number 43, pp. A20-A29.

The percentages of American Indian students were consistently low at all Atlanta area institutions over the two-year period. The highest percentage both years was at Morehouse School of Medicine (1.5% in 1986), which reported only 2 students.

Patterns in the enrollment of Asian students showed little change over time in Atlanta area institutions. Several colleges enrolled no Asian students in 1984 or 1986. Morehouse School of Medicine had the highest percentages of Asian students both years, with 4.5% in 1986.

The percentages of black students at most institutions varied little over the two-year period. However, some of the smaller institutions experienced noticeable changes. For example, black enrollment at Atlanta Christian College was reported to increase from 14.8% in 1984 to 76.5% in 1986. In 1986 there were 11 Atlanta area institutions whose percentages of black enrollment were lower than that of GSU (16.1%). Excluding those institutions that are predominantly black, five institutions had higher percentages of black students than did GSU.

The enrollment patterns for Hispanic and foreign students remained constant from 1984 to 1986 for most institutions. In 1986 the percentages of foreign students varied from 0% at two institutions to 9.3% at Atlanta Metropolitan College.

GSU had a white enrollment of 76.8% in 1986. Nine of the other Atlanta Area Institutions had lower percentages of white students, while 12 had percentages which were higher. Clark College, Morehouse College, and Morris Brown College reported no white students in 1984 and 1986.

Summary and Conclusions

This report has focused on ethnic enrollment percentages at selected urban institutions for fall 1984 and 1986. Information is also provided for selected urban and land-grant universities in the southeast and for Atlanta area institutions. The data consist of enrollment information gathered for the Office of Civil Rights every two years, most recently in 1986. The major findings of this report include:

* At GSU in 1986 the enrollment of black students was at 16.1%. There were 21 urban universities with lower percentages of black students, and four with higher percentages.
* In 1986 there were 11 Atlanta area institutions whose percentages of black students were lower than that of GSU, while 5 institutions (excluding those that are predominantly black) had higher percentages.
* The total enrollment at GSU rose from 21,366 in 1984 to 21,835 in 1986. Fifteen of the selected 26 urban institutions experienced enrollment increases in the two-year period.
* In general, ethnic enrollments at GSU and other urban institutions varied little over the two-year period.

Implications

While many institutions have experienced declines in the enrollment of black students, GSU has maintained its enrollment of this minority group. In future years it may become difficult for GSU to maintain its black student enrollment due to the general trend of proportionately fewer black students participating in higher education, and increased competition from other sources of post secondary education.

The ethnic minority that is increasing its representation in colleges and universities is the Asian group. This growth in Asian students is likely to continue, and should offer new opportunities for institutions of higher education. Its central location, low cost, and quality programs and faculty put GSU in a position to take advantage of the continued increase in the number of Asian students in higher education.